

Date: November 25, 2003 Label No. ER683270177US I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Stephanie Hill
Name (Print)

Stephanie Hill
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Rao, deceased, et al.) Parent Examiner: Daniel J. Jenkins
Application No.: Unassigned)
Filed: November 25, 2003) Parent Group Art Unit: 1742
Docket No.: 00014DIV (3600-267-02)) Confirmation No.: Unassigned
)

For: NITRIDED VALVE METALS AND PROCESSES FOR MAKING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 25, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Each of the documents identified on the 1449 are of record in the parent application. Accordingly, no copies need to be provided.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before expiration of the three-month period following filing of the above-identified application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or

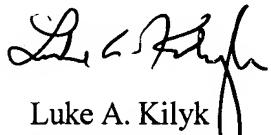
Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Application No.: Unassigned

constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 03-0060 and please consider this a petition.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449

Atty. Docket No.: 00014DIV (3600-267-02)		Application No.:	Unassigned			
Applicant:	RAO, deceased, et al.					
Filing Date:	November 25, 2003		Group Art Unit:	Unassigned		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	RE 32,260	10/07/1986	Fry	75	230	
	3,427,132	02/11/1969	Goon	23	204	
	3,723,838	03/27/1973	Kumagai	317	258	
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	5,245,514	09/14/1993	Fife et al.	361	529	
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	EP 0 282 291 A2	09/14/1988	EUROPE			
	EP 0 402 687 B1	12/19/1990	EUROPE			ABSTRACT
	EP 0 665 302 A2	08/02/1995	EUROPE			
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	Terrance B. Tripp, Malcolm D. Shaw, and Bonnie Cox, "The Effects of Nitrogen on The Properties of Anodic Oxide Films on Tantalum," Pages 317-32, (No Date).
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	W.A. Seriak, L. Schechter, T.B. Tripp, L.L. Lanin, K. Reichert, O. Thomas, and J. Vieregge, "A New Material for Capacitors: Niobium," Pages 82-85, (March 2000).
	International Search Report for PCT/US 01/06449, mailed on September 13, 2001.

Examiner		Date Considered	
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*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.